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# BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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**OBJECTS:** TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies.

TO establish contact with correspondents throughout the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

ANTIGUA  
BAHAMAS  
BARBADOS

BERMUDA  
BRITISH GUIANA  
BRITISH HONDURAS  
CAYMAN ISLANDS  
DOMINICA  
GRENADA

JAMAICA  
LEeward ISLANDS  
MONTserrat  
ST. KITTS-NEVIS  
ST. LUCIA  
ST. VINCENT  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO  
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features (including 'Opinions' Service, and a 'Wants' Section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members. It is emphasised that EVERY member will always be in 'the picture' no matter where he (or she) resides.

TO operate a SALES CIRCUIT to enable members to dispose of their surplus material.

**MEMBERSHIP:** TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all interested in the stamps or postal history of the above-mentioned colonies and dependencies whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be 10/6d (\$1.50 non-sterling countries) payable 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE" and it will be appreciated if remittances from non-sterling countries are made by sterling draft drawn on LONDON or International Money Order.

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### OBITUARIES

With the sudden passing on March 21st of Mr. Oliver G. Bowlby, F.R.P.S.L. we have lost another distinguished member. The fact that it was decided to present his promised contribution to the recent FIPEX Exhibition in New York was just one indication of the high esteem he had enjoyed in philatelic circles. Through the kind co-operation of our member Mr. Robson Lowe we were glad to include some pages from Mr. Bowlby's collection in the Circle's exhibit at the 38th Philatelic Congress at Brighton. We also record with regret the death of one of our overseas members - Mr. William Redford. F.R.P.S.L. -- a prominent South African philatelist, which took place in Johannesburg on 29th January last. Our sincere condolences are extended to the relatives of these two gentlemen in their great loss.

### SALES CIRCUIT

The response to our Hon. Secretary's letter re 'Exchange' has left no doubt that most members welcome the opportunity of an additional channel to dispose of their surplus material. Whilst 'Exchange Packet' is the customary term used for this - service I prefer the more apt title given above which, incidentally, was suggested at a meeting of Secretaries at the 37th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Norwich in 1955.

Some members may have an appreciable amount of surplus material while others comparatively few duplicates. In order that all can take advantage of this service it has been decided that all material shall be mounted on loose sheets the same size as our Bulletin page leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ " margin on left-hand side and forwarded to me when they will be bound in their appropriate covers. Each sheet must be marked in the top right-hand corner with your personal reference number, which is . . . . .

In response to a number of requests for mixed material an envelope 'G' will also be circulated. It is my ambition to send out the first envelopes towards the end of October next and I shall, therefore, be glad if members will send their contributions - whether it be one sheet of many-as soon as they can. Although it is impracticable for envelopes to be sent to members overseas material from those residing in sterling countries will also be most welcome. Notwithstanding the increase in the minimum registered fee to 1/- the total postage of envelopes circulated will rarely exceed 1/6d. As was emphasised by our Hon. Secretary, the success of this service is wholly dependent upon a regular supply of material attractively priced being received. A commission charge of 10 per cent will be made and credited to the Circle's funds.

ROSE TITFORD.

### SPRING MEETING

This was held on Saturday the 21st April, 1956, at 41, Devonshire place, London, W.1. and was attended by 22 members and one visitor with our President. Mr. Gilbert W. Collett in the chair.

The first session was devoted to displays and after tea, a discussion took place which resulted in many members being able to clear up a number of problems in connection with their respective collections: The following is a very brief resume of the displays and only lack of space prevents a fuller description of the interesting material shown:

**E. F. Aguilar** (shown by Mr. G. W. Collett); JAMAICA. A cover with the marking "Camp Gibraltar" dated Kingston, Nov. 13, 1940. **A. E. Beach**: TOBAGO, postal stationery, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, die proofs of adhesives " Before Striking " and " After Striking ". **L. E. Britnor** : Bisects of MONTSERRAT; DOMINICA and NEVIS provisional surcharges; JAMAICA, Ship Letter and Packet Letter. **G. W. Collett** : An interesting JAMAICA cover relating to the use of the "A80" obliterator; a loose 1s. pine wmk. with large "A80"; a scarce pre-adhesive " PORT MARIA " dated 1824. **W. H. H. Crow**: JAMAICA, K.G. VI, 3d Registered envelope, embossing double, one albino. **F. D. Fitz-Gerald** : ANTIGUA, 2½d variety slanting foot to large '2' of '2½'. **E. S. Forshaw** : BRITISH GUIANA, rare types of pre-adhesive markings. **P. W. Hosking**: BRITISH GUIANA Selection of code marks during the 20 years to 1878 prior to the issue of name date-stamps. **B. E, Johnson**: GRENADA, postal stationery including registered envelopes, wrappers and postcards, "Specimens" and a photograph of an essay for an early postcard. **Lt.-Col. G. H. Latham** : Examples of different varieties of postmarks on LEEWARD ISLANDS; first on Leewards proper and a full variety of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher and Virgin Islands cancellations. **J. B. Marriott** : TRINIDAD, 1s. no wmk., perf. 13, S.G.. 67, with ms. "Specimen" partially faded out; the 1d, compound perf., S.G. 63a, 1863-75: **Major F. S. J. Norris**: BERMUDA, early postal cards unused and used, and the earliest known registration mark for St. Georges. **J. A. Richards** : JAMAICA. " Gibraltar Camp " dated in 1946 also CAYMAN ISLANDS. K.G. VI, varieties of 1st. and 2nd printings. **H. H. Rossington** : BARBADOS, 1892, " HALF-PENNY " an 4d varieties. **P. T. Saunders** – Jamaica ½d QV and 1d Llandoverly Falls postmarked in Cayman Islands. Mrs. M.W. Taylor: Grenada, postal stationery used and "Specimens" on various papers; Barbados, pre-adhesive dated Jan. 17, 1687. **Miss O. Tremaine** : BERMUDA, 1910 to 1921 retouches and other varieties, **J. J: Turner** BAHAMAS, Registered cover with Crowned Circle "Paid at Bahamas" dated Dec. 16, 1864; GRENADA, " Specimens " of QV., K.E. VII and K.G. VI issues and 1908 colour trial.

R. T.

### AUTUMN MEETING

It has been decided that a meeting in the autumn shall be a regular feature in our activities and we are again indebted to the Hong Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for placing the meeting room at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W.I. at our disposal. The date is Saturday, 27th October, 1956, and the time 2.30 p.m. All those who hope to attend are enjoined to bring a few sheets also a note of any interesting points for discussion.

### ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS

Whilst it is natural that these meetings should be held on or about the 27th January your Committee have decided, having regard to the uncertainty of the weather so early in the year, to hold all future Anniversary meetings in the spring. The date arranged for 1957 is Saturday, April 6th, at 41, Devonshire Place; London, W.I. at the usual time of 2.30 p.m. This will be followed in the evening by an informal dinner for which accommodation has been reserved at Lords Tavern, St. John's Wood Road; N.W.1.

DISPLAYS

To THE ADMIRALTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
on 9th. MARCH, 1956.

The following members attended and displayed pages from their respective collections: Miss Rose Titford (BAHAMAS and ST. CHRISTOPHER) and Mr. P. T. Saunders (CAYMAN ISLANDS); Mr. A. A. Hershman loaned some pages of JAMAICA T.R.D's and Mr. Bowlby sent a selection : of ANTIGUA and ST. LUCIA.

To THE TWICKENHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
on 21st MARCH, 1956,

Our Hon. Secretary accompanied by Mr. F. D. Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. W: Taylor and Miss Rose Titford spent a most enjoyable evening. Selected pages were shown as follows: Mrs. Taylor (GRENADA), Miss Titford (BAHAMAS and ST. CHRISTOPHER), Mr. Fitz-Gerald (ST. LUCIA), Mr. Saunders (CAYMAN ISLANDS), Mr. A. A. Hershman sent some pages from his collection of JAMAICA T:R.D's.

38th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GT. BRITAIN held at Brighton,  
5th-8th June, 1956

Although the weather was far from kind well over 200 members and delegates attended this event which was a great success and the Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society are to be congratulated on their arrangements for our comfort and enjoyment. The proceedings were ably conducted by the Chairman - Capt. B. Rogers-Tillstone, R.N. and now and again one recalled the phrase- 'The Navy is here.' The Business Sessions followed the well-known pattern and it is natural that we should refer in particular to the Paper given by our member - Miss Rose Titford - entitled "Club Competitions and their Place in Philately." No less than fifteen of those present spoke in support of the many points she raised and some made helpful suggestions. The Exhibition was one of the outstanding features and for the benefit of those of our members who were unable to attend the following is a brief resume of the contents of the nine frames contributed by our CIRCLE:

ANTIGUA: A "Paid,at Antigua" (crowned circle) dated Jy 12 67 (The late Mr. O. G: Bowlby.). 1d first type, re-entries and the surface-printed 2½ds with variety large "2" in "2½" with slanting foot (Mr. C.W. Meridith).

BAHAMAS: first type plate proofs in black, and the 4d's with covers. (Dr. N Garrard).

BARBADOS: early issues including the 1d on half 5s (Col. T. Sutton).

BERMUDA: scarce pre-adhesive covers including the "HAMILTON" in red, dated MR 8 1850. (Cmdr. G. Bridgemore Brown).

BRITISH GUIANA: scarce pre-adhesives, and the rarest Georgetown postmark with title "B. GUIANA" and not the abbreviated "B.G." (Mr. E. S. Forshaw).

BRITISH HONDURAS: Two pre-adhesives, 1790 and 1849; also a G.B. 6d used on cover with the 'A06' obliteration. (Mr. F. H Thompson).

CAYMAN ISLANDS: miscellaneous items including a cover to the U.S.A. inscribed in ms. "(Postage Paid G.A.P.)" and dated MY 18 08. (Mr. P, T. Saunders).

DOMINICA: 1882, "½" (Type 3) on half of 1d and 1886, "One Penny" on 1/- provisional surcharges with varieties. (Dr. H. V. Brown).

GRENADA: 1881, 4d: blue large star, p14½ feint block of 18 and a mint block of 16. broad-pointed star, p.14¼. The 2½d mint blocks and varieties. (Mr. G. L. Pilkington).

JAMAICA: Child Welfare -issue. artist's signed photographs and "Specimen" stamps. (Mr. G. W. Collett).

ST. LUCIA: the initial date-stamps. (The fate Mr. O. G. Bowlby).

LEEWARD ISLANDS: an interesting study of the island cancellations. (Lt.-Col. G. H., Latham).

MONTserrat: 1876 and 1884, varieties, re-entries and bisects. (Mr. C. Hardeman Smith).

ST. CHRISTOPHER miscellaneous, including examples of scarce pre-adhesives and mint material in the issued stamps. (Miss R, Titford).

ST. VINCENT: The "ST. VINCENTS" pre-adhesive; 1862, 1d rough perf. unused strip of 3 imperf. between, and two pairs of the 6d on a "Duke de Polignac" cover. (Mr, J. J. Turner).

TOBAGO: pre-adhesive from Tobago to Gt. Britain with 1d G.B. for re-posting. (Mr, J. W. Halstead). G.B., used with the 'A14' obliteration; die proof, first, issue, on glazed card without value. (Mr A. E. Beach).

TRINIDAD: post cards with 1d and half 1d (S.G.91 & 91a), unused and used; 1882. 1d in red ms. on 6d covers, with the bisect. (Mr, J. B. Marriott).

TURKS ISLANDS: a pre-adhesive of 1855 and the "One Penny" on 2½d bisect on cover. (Mr. G. R. Butler).

VIRGIN ISLANDS: rare early "TORTOLA" pre-adhesives; 1867/8. 1/- with coloured margins, on white paper, sheet of 20, and singles on blued, unused and used. (Mr. K. J. Manning).

At our CIRCLE meeting on Thursday evening, June 7th. many members contributed items of interest in addition to the 'overflow' material which could not be accommodated in the, Exhibition. Among this material was 'a clear "BAHAMAS SHIP LETTER " circa 1850, shown by Dr. Garrard; a fine selection of Caymans covers (K.E.) by the President, "TORTOLA" pre-adhesives of Virgin Islands (1805 and 1806) by Mr. Manning; a study of the K.G.VI .2½d 'picking limes' plate varieties of Dominica by Dr. H. V. Brown, a fine group of the Tobago provisionals by Mr. Beach. Trinidad bisects on covers by Mr Marriott, Jamaica hand-struck marks by Mr. Thompson, Jamaica, 1890, 2½d on 4d provisionals, a study by Mr. Courtney, and Forwarding Agents marks of Trinidad by Colonel Latham. Several members and visitors also produced' single stamps on which solutions to their problems were provided by others at this, meeting.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

It will be appreciated that our Bulletin constitutes the vital link between us and is mainly dependent upon a steady flow of contributions from members. These may either afford information or raise points upon which enlightenment is sought, and it will be helpful if S.G. numbers are quoted wherever possible. ALL contributions should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

### BARBADOS

With regard to the query raised by Dr. Urwick in Bulletin No. 4 p.46, I have the following with an oval Ship Letter mark:

- (a) On a postcard from DOMINICA bearing obliterator A07 and c.d.s. AP.7.88 and Barbados Ship Letter mark 11 AP 88. Directive : Per S.S. "Muriel".
- (b) On a postcard from BRITISH GUIANA bearing c.d.s. Georgetown, British Guiana JAN 13 00 and Barbados Ship Letter mark 15 JA 00. Directive Per. S.S. "Fortabelle" and addressed to F. Gregory Esq., Secretary of Barbados Philatelic Society.

I, too, shall be grateful for any further information regarding the above " .

(Contributed by Mr. L. E. BRITNOR.)

### BRITISH GUIANA

Imagine an undeveloped area of 8,000 square miles, equivalent to twice the combined area of Devon and Cornwall, with only 12 miles of road and where the greater part of the very sparse and scattered population of 6,000 can only travel by river and forest trails and you have a thumb nail sketch of the North West District of British Guiana today.

In October 1890 when the first regular mail steamer service to MORAWHANNA, (then the Administrative headquarters), was inaugurated, conditions were probably even more primitive. A Travelling Postmaster was put in charge of the mails, and this can be considered the first T.P.O. service in the N.W. District. Later the service was extended to Mount Everard on the Barima River and additionally, from December 1896, a mail launch service was operated under contract by a local trader between Mount Everard and Arakaka.

The T.P.O. cancellation takes the form of a 26mm. double ring reading 'T.P.O. North West Str' with two line date and fleuron in the double circle at the foot. So far as I am aware the mark is reasonably scarce and all my copies are dated some time in 1898. The fact that the cancellation includes the word 'Str' suggests that it was only used on the service- between MORAWHANNA and MOUNT EVERARD - probably at the latter and intermediate settlements. Mail from MORAWHANNA would have had no need of the cancellation as its Post Office was opened in September 1890. It also seems extremely unlikely that the mark would have been used on both steamer and launch services. Settlements on the latter route were few and the two major ones, ARAKAKA and KORIABO had by 1894 their own Post Offices; mail from which until 1896 would have been carried to MOUNT EVERARD by any private boat available. Although the necessity for carrying mail from ARAKAKA to MORAWHANNA persisted, the North West T.P.O. would seem to have ceased operating about 1902, and it was not until 1951 that a similar service was introduced.

In 1949 the Colonial Government decided to expand its medical services in the District and on 1st August 1951 the Government Dispenser was additionally appointed Travelling Postal Agent, travelling with a boat crew of three in the Motor Launch 'Relief'

The postal duties of the Dispenser includes the conveyance and delivery of all mail, parcels, etc., clearance of all Post Boxes en route, maintenance of an adequate stock of Inland P.O.'s and stamps and giving receipts for registered letters. The launch is based on KUMAKA and regularly carries out four different journeys each month. On the first week it travels the Aruka and Koriabo Rivers and their tributaries. The next week 176 miles are covered up the Kaituma and Barima Rivers. The Waini and Barama Rivers and their tributaries are traversed on the third week a total of 200 miles. whilst the fourth week is given over to the 17 miles to the Imbotero Creek on the Barima River on the Venezuelan frontier. The cancellation used is of the large 31mm. single ring type with two line date and reads 'Mobile N.W.D. Agency'.

(Contributed by Mr. P. W. HOSKING.) DOMINICA

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DOMINICA

We are all familiar with the spate of surcharges of the 1880/90 period which are both the joy and curse of many philatelists, but in my experience it is rare to find any contemporary observations on them. I thought, therefore, that a post card in my possession might be of interest. It is from the Postmaster at Dominica to the Postmaster at St. Kitts :

To :-W. P. Pearce Esq., Post Office. St. Kitts.

Dear Sir,

Your kind favor of Bermuda to hand safely for which accept my sincere thanks. Do you think these 1d surcharges will be in use for a long time? I believe they intend surcharging our 1/- and 6d stamps 1d and ½d but don't think they will be issued before the end of the year, as we have a good many 1d and ½d stamps on hand. We have an innumerable number of 1/ and 6d stamps enough to last for ages, so I am afraid a great many of them will be surcharged so they'll be hardly provisional stamps as they'll be in use for months. It will afford me great pleasure to send you some when issued. Excuse scrawl very busy with regards.

P. Office 7-4-85

I remain yours etc.  
C. A. SEIGNORET

(Contributed by Dr. H. VIVIAN BROWN.)

## GRENADA

The early Packet Offices at CARRIACOU in the GRENADINES

In Mr. Robson Lowe's book on Handstruck Postage Stamps it is stated that a Packet Agency was opened at Carriacou in 1842, but no history of its working is known. I have in my possession correspondence dealing with the Mount Pleasant Estate in Carriacou, amongst which is a letter written at Carriacou on January 24th, 1842, There is no Carriacou strike on it, but it is backstamped at GRENADA (RL. Type P.J., Charlton Type A6, which he states is known for 1832-1839 only). Another letter, dated February 14th, 1842, is struck with a straight line Carriacou (Charlton A12). It would therefore seem that the Agency opened between these dates. This Carriacou strike is not found in the records of the G.P.O., although a Carriacou Ship Letter (RL, Type S.C.) was registered there on August 27th, 1841, which has not to my knowledge been recorded. The size and lettering of the word Carriacou are identical in both strikes, and it seems that the Ship Letter part had been cut off before use.

In the G.P.O. records on November 13th. 1846, a Crowned Circle 'Paid at Carriacou' and a circular stamp of Carriacou were registered. To my knowledge the former has not been recorded, but the latter (RL. Type P.L, Charlton Type A14) occurs twice in this correspondence dated July 9th; 1847, and July 8th, 1848. Unfortunately there are no more letters until 1858 and 1859, both of these having G.B. stamps; the former being sent via ST. VINCENT (A10) and the latter via GRENADA (A15). There being; no Carriacou strikes, it would seem that the Packet Agency must have closed by then, yet in 1861, when GRENADA Post Office issued Parish marks, F was allotted to Carriacou.

I should be grateful to hear, whether any member has any information concerning the working of the Agency, and in particular anyone who has seen the unrecorded strikes.

(Contributed by Mrs. M. W, TAYLOR).

## JAMAICA

Recently I purchased a pre-adhesive straight line PORT ANTONIO (Nicholson Type 3). It is a receiving cancel being addressed to 64th Regiment, Spanish Town, Jamaica, the addressee's name having been removed. It was mailed from BRADFORD, Yorks, on July 30, 1837, where 2/2d postage was paid. Nicholson reports in the handbook that this cancellation was first known, used in 1838, yet this must be an 1837 cancel unless the boat took five months, which seems highly improbable to me. The Die was sent out from the London G.P.O. on February 7th, 1833. Are there earlier known cancels than 1837 for PORT ANTONIO, Type 3 ? "

(Contributed by Mr. C. M. GILDART.)

NOTE : By the word 'Die' Mr. Gildart means, of course, obliterator. (Ed.).

ST. CHRISTOPHER THE MOTHER COLONY

(continued from Bulletin No. 7. p.93.)

It may be of interest to record that the external cover I referred to bore the 'ST. KITTS' c.d.s. (with month, day and year); I find this postmark appears infrequently as apart from what is generally known as the 'killer' type (of which more anon) the type more often met with is the 'ST. KITTS' c.d.s. with a single capital initial letter\*, and the duplex 'A12' mark of the upright oval type with the 'abbreviated letters'\* referred to by Mr. G. W. Groves (Bulletin No. 8, p.10) probably less frequently.

Mr. Grove's reference to a later 'non-duplex' type is probably the type to which I have referred to as having a single capital initial letter, so far I only possess this cancellation with the initial 'A' (which would appear to be relatively common) and 'C'. Mr Groves records 'SP', but this would seem to be of later use, as confirmed by the note contributed by Mr. G. S. Manners on page 38 of this issue.

There are two types of the 'A12' duplex obliteration, the earliest being 24mm high and the later one 27mm. high. The- considered opinion of many specialists is that the 27mm type was only introduced after the general issue for Leeward Islands appeared in 1890 and possibly after the 5th June. 1894, the date on which the stamps of St. Christopher ceased to be available for postage. The fact that few adhesives are known with this larger 'A12' tends to confirm the recorded contention that those which have been seen are not postally used but have been cancelled par complaisance at a later date.

\* Unfortunately, my examples of both these cancellations are on single stamps, so it is difficult to state With certainty if t they belong to the duplex or non" duplex type

The killer type was evidently employed towards the end of the CC perf. 12½ stamps and generally the end of the CC. perf. 12½ stamps and generally during the use of the CC perf. 14 issue as I possess, or have seen more copies of it on the 1875-76 issue than on the stamps of 1870, and is the one most commonly found. Assuming there is only one type, it nearly always appears as -a smudged bar, but is in fact a line composed of four initial letters, although in its very worn stage it could be mistaken for a smudged bar. Many collectors have tried to decipher the actual letters but unless a clear example is viewed any guess has been as good as another, but I have always maintained, by the evidence of clear examples in my collection that the letters are "AWJY". Although it seems reasonable to conclude that these were the initials of an official in St. Christopher, no one, so far as I can ascertain, has been able to state whose initials they are and alas, I can offer no clue. This 'mystery' cancellation may exist in two types, the one with the initial letters and also another with the smudged bar, as it seems to me inconceivable that even with great wear the initial letters could wear down to such an extent that: they eventually, resembled a 'bar'. Although I have for a long time been quite convinced that the letters are "AWJY", I have seen recently an example where the second letter seems to be an 'M'. I now wonder in some cases, where the postmark shows as 'AWJY' whether the second letter might be an inverted 'M' as it is not outside the bounds of possibility that the four letters were composed of movable type in the obliterator: and the shape of the 'M' (or 'W') are not dissimilar in appearance.

So much for my own personal views on this subject. In an article by Mr. Robson Lowe in the 'Philatelist' (October 1948) he mentions that there were two types of this circular 'killer' with a bar in the centre, a theory based on material in the collection of our Vice-resident Dr. R H. Urwick, and he illustrated these notes by two copies of the 6d green used on covers in 1876 and 1878; in both cases the stamps being cancelled by a single circle with a very roughly shaped bar in the centre. Mr. Lowe goes on to say: 'It should be remembered that St. Christopher used British stamps from 1858 to 1860 and these were cancelled 'A12' in a transverse oval of bars at Basse-terre, but this 'killer' was probably mislaid when the British stamps went out of use in 1860, for handstruck stamps, were used until 1870 when the colonial adhesives appeared. It is a curious fact that, no further numeral 'Killer' was issued until 1879, when the upright oval type bearing 'A12' in the centre came into use. There are two types of the St. Christopher circular on the 4d stamps used on covers in 1881 and 1882, and again on a 6d cover used in 1879.

Again, quoting Mr. Lowe's article he states:

“In this case the central portion of the ‘killer’ appears to be made up of letters, and various theories have been advanced as to what these letters may mean. Judging by the second of the two fourpence the word may be ‘ARMY’, but I lean to the theory that it is probable that the apparent letters are really the butt end of reversed and movable type.”

In a letter received by Mr. Lowe on this subject (The ‘Philatelist’ January 1949) a correspondent put forward the suggestion that as the circle of the c.d.s. postmark was of the same size as the ‘killer’ type (and he illustrated one of the c.d.s. with rather smudgy print), whether the normal c.d.s. might have been damaged, thus producing this ‘bar’ cancellation, Mr. Lowe's comment on his correspondent's example was that it looked like ‘AMJY’ (which bears out my findings so far. as to the possibility of the cancellation being either ‘AWJY’ or ‘AMJY’, though I remain convinced the letters are ‘AWJY’).

A further complication to this ‘mystery’ cancellation is that in ‘The Philatelist’ for March 1949 appears a copy of a letter received by another correspondent from the Postmaster of St. Kitts which was as follows: - “Dear Sir, In reply to your enquiry of October 24th, the postmark, you refer to seems to be one which was in use for obliterating stamps and which Mr. George King, a former Postmaster, tells me he used up to 1936. He says it was in frequent, though not constant use since only one was in the office. What looks like ‘Army’ to you is an ‘A’ followed by bars. Yours very truly, J. D. MALONEY (Postmaster). General Post Office, Basseterre. St. Kitts. February 2nd, 1949.”

So now we have another statement, which does not materially clarify, the position! I have never seen the 'killer' type with one initial letter followed by bars and it would be most interesting to know if any other member of the Circle has seen one. The statement that this 'killer' type was infrequent, though not constant use, since only one was in the Office is also confusing because as I have already indicated in this article it is, in my experience, by far the most common of all St. Christopher cancellations, but the interesting point contained in this official's letter is that only one was in use, and tends to show that the original 'letters' cancellation had a considerable amount of wear which would account for so many of the adhesives bearing what looks like a smudged bar. Although this instalment of my article contains much which has been recorded by others I considered it might be useful to put down the facts which have come to light in recent years on this 'mystery'; obliteration. I regret my own comments add nothing really new in the way of solving the mystery but I hope that by logical application and without any real evidence (save the letter from Mr. Maloney, which does so-to speak, confuse the issue) it will be seen that there was a 'letters' obliteration which was composed of the letters 'AWJY' (or 'AMJY') which gradually became so worn as to resemble merely a smudged bar towards the end of its life. This conclusion is not satisfactory (to me at least) so often it is easy to apply facts from evidence, but such evidence is not strong enough. I personally am reluctant to accept it but I am unable to arrive at any other conclusion. It may be said therefore, that the 'case' on this postmark, still remains 'unproven'. Should the actual obliterator still exist, then' all doubt would be removed."

(To be continued.) (Contributed by Miss ROSE TITFORD.)

### ST. KITTS

Apropos of the St. Kitts code letter cancellations (Bulletin No. 8. p.10). I can now add a little more information. I have now seen the only copy known to me of the 'AN' Anguilla Valley duplex and it is dated January 9th 1925! As these cancellations were supposed to have gone out of use in 1911 there seems to be something wrong somewhere.

I have also seen the initials 'OR' on a pair of Leeward Islands 1d violet dated September 19th; 1924. With regard to the non-duplex type which Mr. Groves mentions for Sandy Point this would seem to be scarcer than the rest. I have seen a piece with it on Leeward Islands dated November 4th. 1925.

(Contributed by Mr. G. S. MANNERS)

ST. VINCENT

In my last letter I mentioned certain difficulties I was having in arriving at an understanding of the accepted classification of the perforations of the early Perkins Bacon St. Vincent stamps. I see from the last Bulletin that other members are having the same difficulty and I am very glad to be able to say that I have made some progress in elucidating the position. The difficulty which I, and I take it a number of other members, have been in was that the present classification did not agree with that worked out by Napier and Bacon in the St. Vincent handbook published in 1895. I have recently been able to study a copy of the Napier and Bacon handbook on Grenada which throws a great deal of light on the subject, since it gives a detailed account of the methods adopted by Perkins Bacon for perforation and makes the categorical statement that their classification in their prior St. Vincent handbook was wrong. The abbreviated history could, I think, be put as follows : -

All the St. Vincent stamps printed by Perkins Bacon were perforated on one of two machines, commonly known as the A machine and the B machine. These were both single line machines of a somewhat elementary design in which the perforating pins, which were small fiat-headed punches, descended through the paper, into a corresponding line of holes drilled in a steel plate. When new, in the form known as A.1., this machine produced a comparatively clean cut perforation varying between 14 and 16½ owing to the unequal spacing of the pins. After some time, however, the small pieces cut out of the paper filled up the holes in the steel plate and the perforation gradually became less clean cut and eventually became very rough indeed. In this rough state the perforation was called by Napier and Bacon A:2. The first issue of St: Vincent was perforated while this machine was in its intermediate state. According to Napier and Bacon this machine was retained in use, producing a very rough perforation, until 1872 and although it received minor attention during this period, nothing was done to it which in any way modified the perforation. In June 1872, however, the machine was thoroughly overhauled and re-built. In its new form, known as A.3. the gauge was more regular and, while varying between 14½ and 15½, was generally found to measure about 15 The pins of this machine were apparently rather more pointed so that the paper is not entirely removed. The second machine which is known as the B machine, worked on exactly the same principle as the A machine and behaved in a similar way. The pins were very irregularly placed and the gauge, therefore, varied at different, parts of the line between 11 and 12. I am sure that the trouble in most members' minds over this problem is due to the fact that the original Napier and Bacon St. Vincent handbook was in error in this matter.

(Contributed by SIR F. BRUNORETT, K.B E., C.B.)

THE DE LA RUE STAMP CENTENARY EXHIBITION

held at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W,1, 6th to 18th June 1955

Captions of items covering the British West Indies  
continued from p, 11 (Bulletin No. 8)

**JAMAICA. October 17, 1860.** The first reference to the initial issue of postage stamps by Jamaica is in the Company's Private Day Book of October 17, 1860, from which the specimens shown have been cut (1d, 2d, 4d; 6d and 1s – overprinted Specimen.).

**Postal Fiscals:** 1d rose-red dated October 1868, and 1d carmine dated May 1869. **1883:** Proposed scheme of colours submitted to the Crown Agents on August 23, 1883, to bring them into line with the altered ½d and 1d, stamp colours required by the International Postal Convention. It was approved; by the Major-General administering the Government of Jamaica on November 27 1883. All proofs in proposed colours are perf. 12. Essays : Queen Victoria issues of 1883-97, 2/- (2), 5/- (1). **1889-91**, 2d (4). Arms type issue, **1903-04**, 1d (2); ½d (1), King Edward VII issue, 1911, 1d (1). One with blank duty tablet. **1919-29 issues.** Two-colour die proofs for register only in colours other than those approved for issue, with pulls in black; of the 1½d and 10/-. The 2½d shows the Union Jack on the left inverted and the 6d of the design, which was never issued for political reasons.

**1929-32 issue.** Progressive proofs of the 1d die. A. 1s. a proving from the original die. B. shows the two impressions taken up on the cylinder from 'A'. C. is a proof from the second die, where diagonal cross-hatching has been substituted below JAMAICA for the original parallel lines in the original die 'A'.

**LEEWARD ISLANDS.** On February 25, 1890, the Governor requested designs for one uniform set of stamps of eight duties throughout the Colony. Three appendices showing various methods of overprinting the key-plate by means of blank duty die proofs with the name and value sketched in by hand.

**MONTSERRAT.** Essay of September 13, 1901, submitted at the request of the Colonial Secretary; Antigua, on July 15, 1901, when he wrote that separate issues of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, and St. Kitts were proposed, and submitted material for the design. The Crown Agents approved it for values up to 5/-, but instructed the Company to use the approved Antigua design for the 5/- denomination. Tercentenary issue. Approved colour proofs.

**NEVIS.** August 1, 1883; Proposed scheme of colours, using the original blank duty key-plate die, submitted to accord with the International Postal Convention requirements.

It was approved on, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. CHRISTOPHER.** 1874. Blank duty die proof from the original engraving; together with proofs of the first, two duty values, of which twenty leads were struck on January 25, 1870. May 3, 1882: Colour scheme submitted, because the introduction of a ½d value necessitated the Postal Convention: colours being followed for the ½d, 1d and 2½d and the current 6d was in green. It accorded with the new Barbados scheme.

**ST. KITTS-NEVIS.** July 15 1901. Under this date the Colonial Secretary, Antigua, wrote that it was proposed to separate the stamp issues for Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and St. Kitts, calling for designs embodying the material supplied to the instructions of the Colony. Two two-colour letterpress submissions of September 13th, approved by the Crown, Agents, 'A' being used for the ½d, 2½d, 2d, 6d, 1/- and 2/6. and 'B' for 1d, 3d, 2/- and 5/- in various colour denominations. The key die proofs of the initial issue approved in October 1902 before routing. Also die proofs of the two vignettes separately pulled two months later. Vignettes for the 1920-22 issue used with the head of King George V and the die proofs pulled in December 1919 before the dies had hardened. Colour proof of the 1½d approved for the new colour in red-brown, and the 1d for reversion to red from the violet adopted in 1922, which was not used.

**ST. LUCIA:** Scheme of colours submitted on September 27, 1883, primarily to show the proposed change of colour of the 4d It was suggested it was a fitting opportunity to discard the old design of the 4d, 6d and 1/-, and introduce in their place the key-plate stamps design already current in the Convention colours for the ½d, 1d, and 2½d stamps. The Antigua specimens accepted for the surface-printed colours of the 4d, 6d and 1/- are perforated 12, as is the proposed 4d copperplate. **1936 issue.** Approved colour, proofs on Multiple Script CA paper. 1936 issue. Duplicates of approved die proofs pulled during 1935.

**ST. VINCENT.** On August 18., 1896, the Governor of the Windward Isles requested new issues of 2½d and 5d stamps for St. Vincent. Utilising the blank duty, die and painting in the values, the Company's submission of September 22nd was eventually approved on February 1, 1897. In the interval the Crown Agents requested alternatives from the universal key-plate. Submission of October 16th is also shown to which are attached alternative designs 'A' and 'B' for production by this key-plate system. These alternatives were the basis of the recess stamps issued in 1907. Rejected essay of the Arms of the Colony recess-printed stamp called for by the Governor of the Colony on April 25, 1906, together with a blank duty die proof of the design submitted on November 2nd, which was approved on December 14, 1906. In 1908 modification of the design was requested, reversing the position of the Colony's motto and the words POSTAGE & REVENUE. The approved altered design and blank duty die proof on September 7, 1908, are shown. The size of the motto was reduced in 1912, and the colour proof passed for hardening by Sir Evelyn De La Rue on July 17, 1912 is also shown.

(To be concluded).

### AUCTION GLEANINGS

H. R. HARMER LTD, The "William Glossop" Sale, March 12-14th:

**Grenada:** 1862, no wmk., perf. 11½; 6d lake-red, S.G. 4. part o.g. £27; 1875, 1/- deep mauve, error "SHLLIING", S.G. 16a, £24; 1881, wmk, broad-pointed: Star, 2½d deep claret, no stop after "PENNY", S.G. 25a, part o.g., £33; **St. Christopher:** Great Britain. 1856, 1/- green, pmkd. 'A12' Basse-Terre, wide plain edge at left, £26; 1882-90, 4d blue, S.G.17, part o.g., £19; **St. Lucia:** 6d on 4d indigo, S.G.8b, unused but centred to lower-left, £21; 1891-92, ½d on 3d dull mauve and blue, surcharge inverted. S.G.56b used on piece with Queen ½d dull -green, £10/10/0; **St. Vincent:** 1866, perf. 11-12½, 1/- slate-grey, S.G.9, part o.g. centred slightly to bottom-left, £65; 1868, perf. 11-12½, 1/- brown, S.G.14, part o.g., £18; 1872, perf. 11-12½ 1/- deep rose-red, S.G.17, centred slightly to top-left. £42; 1880, perf. 11-12½, 5/- rose-red, S.G. 28, part o.g., well centred, £31; 1881, 4d on 1/- vermilion, S.G.32, centred slightly to bottom left, used, £23; 1886-89, perf. 12. 4d dull blue, S.G. 52, part o.g., £57/10/10; Tobago: 1879, £1 mauve, S.G.6, part o.g. slightly gum wrinkled, £72/10/0; 1882-84, 6d stone, SG, -19. part o.g. centred slightly to left, £15; Virgin Islands: 186768, perf. 15, toned paper 6d dull rose, S.G.131, part o.g., £1:1/10/0; 1899, 4d brown, error "PENCE" S.G.46a, o.g. well centred, slightly age stained, £12; Sale; March 26th & 27th. **Barbados:** 1873, 5/- dull rose, S.G.64, centred slightly to top left, used, \$10; 1878, 1d on half 5/-, unsevered pair, left-hand S.G.86, right-hand, S.G.87, used, some defective perfs, £52/10/0; **Leeward Islands:** 1897 Jubilee 5/-, S.G.16, part o.g.,£17; Sale. April 16th & 17th. **Montserrat** : 1876, 6d green, variety 'S' inverted. S.G.2b, part o.g., £19; Turks Islands : 1881, '2½' on 4d black, S.G.26; part o.g., £11/10/0.  
Sale, April 23rd & 24th: Trinidad: 1855. 1d blue, S.G.16, large margins, £16.

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